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Commission on the Status of Women
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Item 3 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Statement submitted by International Federation for Home Economics, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement*

The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels

The International Federation for Home Economics as a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women welcomes the possibility of reviewing the agreed conclusions of the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 27 February to 10 March 2006 and wishes to draw attention to the interlinkage with the main theme of this fifty-third session. The more women are kept busy in unpaid or low-paid working conditions – and not only in the realm of caring or social provisioning – and other activities are becoming a luxury because of lack of time, opportunities and money, the less they have the chance to accede to decision-making positions.

Implementation of the agreed conclusions 2006 as well as of the instruments and documents mentioned therein is still far from being satisfactory.

The International Federation for Home Economics, a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, therefore, once again urges Governments to:

- set specific targets and timelines and implement measures to increase substantially the number of women in decision-making positions;
- encourage greater involvement of indigenous and ethnic minority women in decision making at all levels;
- support studies on women's participation in, and impact on, decision-making and the decision-making environment.

International Federation for Home Economics also urges Governments, in partnership with national bodies, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations to:

- take positive action to create opportunities for women to gain education, specific training, and practical experience in strategic decision-making in order to build a critical mass of competent women leaders, executives and managers in strategic decision-making positions;
- create or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to monitor women's access to senior levels of decision-making;
- increase women's participation in, and access to, decision-making in the media and new technologies of communication.

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* Issued without formal editing.